

WEST LAFAYETTE PARKS AND RECREATION
2016 CO-ED SOFTBALL RULE
Revised 5/4/16

1. LENGTH OF GAMES

- A. League play will begin the week of May 9, 2016.
- B. Games will start at 6, 7:15 and 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Game times for Blessed Sacrament will be posted on the schedule. There is NO grace period. Games need to start at 6 pm to ensure the 7:15 and 8:30 games start on time.
- C. Time limit: maximum of 1:10. No inning may start after elapsed time of 1:10. If a game is tied that exceeds time limit, then game will be counted as a tied game. THE UMPIRES WATCH IS THE OFFICIAL GAME TIME.
- D. There is a twenty (20) run rule after the third inning, a fifteen (15) run rule after the fourth or at the end of any subsequent complete inning.
- E. No game time limit during tournament play.

2. RULES

The rules governing the league will be the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules With the following exceptions:

- A. Protests will not be allowed.
- B. A minimum of 4 female, 4 male are required to play a game, unless both teams agree to play. A maximum of 5 female & 5 males may be on the field.
- C. Home plate is considered to be a force play, when a runner crosses the white strip halfway between home and third called the "Line of No Return". Once the runner crosses this "Line of No Return" the force play exists at home and the runner may not return to third. Sliding into home plate is permitted.
- D. Last day to add names to rosters is July 8th (2016).
- E. A game is considered complete after four (4) complete innings.

3. PRE-GAME PRACTICE

- A. No infield practice will be permitted on the diamond prior to the game.
- B. No batting practice will be permitted between games.
- C. There will be no infield practice allowed on the field between games. When a game ends, the next game will start at the scheduled time or as soon as possible.

4. UNIFORMS

- A. No metal spikes are allowed.
- B. Jewelry such as watches and rings should be removed for safety.

5. BALLS

- A. The game balls shall not be used by the pitcher to warm up prior to the game.
- B. The home team shall be given the game ball.

6. HOME TEAM

- A. In all games, the home team uses the third base dugout.

7. PITCHING & INFIELD REGULATIONS

- A. First inning - 5 warm-up pitches, infield warm ups allowed, maximum of one minute.
- B. Second inning to game completion - no warm-up pitches nor infield warm-up unless the game is delayed or pitcher is injured.
- C. Relief pitchers shall have 5 warm-up pitches.

8. INJURY RULE

- A. An injured player may be replaced by a player from his team who normally could not return to the game.
- B. The extra player could replace an injured player, if no other option is available.
- C. Prior to the game starting – if you have an injured player that can't run the bases, the captain must notify the other team captain and the umpire that a pinch runner will

be used. The injured player has to reach first base before a pinch runner can be used. The pinch runner will be the last person out of the same gender.

9. CO-ED RULES

- A. A minimum of 3 women must play infield positions, any combination including pitcher and catcher.
- B. If a man is walked with a 4 - 0 count the woman has a choice to walk or hit.
- C. *The number of batters must be equal to or greater than the number of fielders. (new)*
- D. *A courtesy runner may be used once and only once per inning for each gender. The courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out prior to being used as a courtesy runner. (new)* Example: Male batter #5 in the lineup strike out. After female batter #6 in the lineup bates, male batter #7 in the lineup reaches safely on a single. Therefore, the courtesy runner becomes male batter #5 in the lineup.
- E. There is no limit on how many players a team may enter on a batting lineup as long as the batting order is legal (male followed by a female or female followed by a male).
 - 1. A team must finish with the same number of batters that were on the lineup to start the game or it will be assessed outs for each missing position.
Example: If a team lists 16 players in the batting lineup, then it must finish with 16 players. If a player should get injured and must leave the game, or if a player simply leaves the game, then an out will be taken in that players spot unless a team enters a proper substitution.
 - 2. You must notify umpire and opposing coach if batting more than 12.
 - 3. The re-entry rule is in effect for all players.
 - 4. If an injury occurs and a player needs to be removed you may substitute the injured player with another who is of the same sex.
- F. With two strikes, a foul results in an out.

10. HOME RUN RULE – BLESSED SACRAMENT ONLY (New Rule)

A. Teams may only hit a maximum of 1 home run relative to their opponent's home run totals. Any batter that hits a homerun for a team that is already +1 in homeruns will immediately be declared out. Runners cannot advance. If a team is -1 in home runs relative to their opponent, that team may hit two consecutive home runs, moving them from -1, to even, to +1. Example: Team A hits a home run in the top of the first inning. If another batter from Team A hits a homerun in that inning, he or she is immediately declared out. In the bottom of the first inning, Team B hits a home run, which evens each team's homerun total at 1. Team B can then hit another homerun in that inning (moving to +1 over Team A), but hitting another homerun (+2) would result in that batter being declared out. In short, any team that has more homeruns than their opponents in a given game cannot be awarded a homerun until the opposing team either evens the homerun totals, or moves to +1.

11. AWARDS

- A. Both sponsor and individual awards will be presented to league and tournament winners. (15 awards per team)
- B. A team trophy will be awarded to second place in each league.

12. BLOOD RULE

- A. Is by the book with the stipulation that the length of time is considered reasonable is 5 minutes.

13. TOURNAMENT PLAY

- A. Only those players listed on a team's roster by July 8th are eligible for the tournament. Captains are expected to check their roster as of July 8th to the roster posted at field or call Pennie Ainsworth or Bob Nicholson before the tournament to check those players eligible for the tournament.
- B. If requested, players will need to provide picture identification (i.e. driver's license) to verify eligibility. If unable to produce identification, player is ineligible.
- C. All eligibility questions must be resolved before game begins. Once game starts, no eligibility questions will be addressed and the game will be considered official.